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de l'armée française" (76) makes serious criticisms of the conditions in the army.

The two leaders in the second volume, previously published anonymously, are ascribed to their proper authors by M. Chuquet. Captain Oriot (71) describes the retreat from Moscow to Smolensk, and Captain Briquerville (79) the retreat of the rear-guard under Ney from Smolensk to Orcha. Ney's modest official report (82) of this startling achievement is also included. The last episode of the retreat, the plundering of the military treasure-chests at Kovno, is recounted by their guardian, Colonel Heeringen (108). While this volume like the first contributes very little new information, it includes more documents of genuine interest and illustrative value, though the best are not among the "inédits".

GEORGE MATTHEW DUTCHER.

I Carbonari dello Stato Pontificio ricercati dalle Inquisizioni Austriache nel Regno Lombardo-Veneto (1817-1825). Documenti inediti pubblicati dal Professore AUGUSTO PIERANTONI. (Rome: Albrighi, Segati e Compagnia. 1910. Two volumes. Pp. iv, 492; 404.)

THIS is one of the most important and also one of the most inaccurately edited works in the valuable series, *Biblioteca Storica del Risorgimento Italiano*, in which it is listed as volumes V. and VI. of the sixth series. Its nine hundred pages contain only documents, mainly portions of reports—without editorial introduction, notes, or subject index—on the examination of political prisoners by the imperial Austrian inquisition in the Lombardo-Veneto during the years 1819-1823, and some official correspondence relating to them. The publication of the reports has been made from a contemporary manuscript volume in the National Library Vittorio Emanuele in Rome, entitled "Estratti degli Atti dell' Imp. Regio Tribunale Criminale di Venezia interessanti lo Stato Pontificio". The authenticity of this manuscript volume is placed beyond doubt by the declaration of the secretary of the Imperial Royal Commission of *prima istanza*, who certifies in the volume itself that the proceedings herein inscribed are exact copies of those registered in the journal of the Austrian government for the use of the Pontifical government and were intended to contain such portions of the inquisitorial examination of prisoners in the Lombardo-Veneto as implicated citizens of the Pontifical States in the revolutionary conspiracies of the period. And it was by means of the information supplied by this volume that Cardinal Rivarola was able on August 31, 1825, to condemn in a single sentence four hundred and eighteen of the pope's subjects as political criminals.

It is only recently that this most important source has come into the historian's hands. Father Ilario Rinieri used it in an important paper in the *Civiltà Cattolica* in 1905, and also, though without naming it, in his *La Verità Storica nel Processo Pellico-Maroncelli*; one or two other writers after Rinieri quoted briefly from it; then Senator Pierantoni

managed to sequester it for four years during the unscholarly preparation of the present publication. Alessandro Luzio, in 1903, writing his important but not entirely trustworthy *Il Processo Pellico-Maroncelli*, knew of the existence of the manuscript volume, but although it contains portions of fourteen reports on the examination of Pellico and Maroncelli in Venice, 1821-1822, which are wanting in the Milan state archives in which Luzio worked, he failed to avail himself of it to fill in the historical gap. Had he examined Maroncelli's revelations made in Venice he would have been obliged to revise his published opinion of the "good Piero". On February 17, 1821, for example, Maroncelli in a dictated statement made before the Commission declared: "I cannot deny that in my depositions heretofore made I have maintained silence in regard to many matters and spoken untruly in regard to others. But I am now ready to tell the truth about everything, hoping that in the affair which I am going to relate, the Most Merciful Government will deign to consider my position, and especially that of my family, and concede to me and my brother that treatment which a man who is penitent of his transgression may hope to receive, and which I shall merit from the revelations which I am about to make" (I. 19). The disclosure of the most inviolable secrets and the betrayal of a host of companions and friends followed. In the course of his examination Maroncelli not only replied to the questions directly put to him, but with apparent eagerness entered repeatedly upon lengthy narration revealing what he knew of the whole flimsy web of political conspiracy, prepared by the Carbonari, the Masons, the Guelphs, the Spilla Nera, and other secret societies, with a fulness of circumstantial detail which would have done honor to the most odious political spy. Lists of conspirators were freely proffered; names of men of whom he had merely heard as secret society members and those of his most intimate associates were given with equal alacrity; their political views, their grades in the different lodges, the importance of their individual activities, all the information that was most damning to his fellow patriots was readily placed at the disposal of a police which Maroncelli knew to be infernally cruel in political repression and relentless even beyond the grave. And this was done, as he declared (I. 86), "to show his gratitude towards the Government"—that government against which he had himself conspired in company with several of the men whom he was betraying. Maroncelli may be pitied for the physical suffering and mental tortures which he was forced to endure in Austrian prisons, but after the publication of these reports of his conduct before the inquisition he can be classed only among the most vile and abject informers.

Of the reputations of the other twenty-seven prisoners whose examinations are reported in these volumes, few fare better in the new light that is thrown upon them than that of Maroncelli. Among the most noteworthy depositions made were those of Antonio Villa, Felice Foresti, Giovanni Battista Canonici, Antonio Solera, and Costantino Munari. Of the infamy of Villa much was already known. As to

Foresti, the charge that he betrayed his associates, brought against him ten years ago by Luzio in his *Antonio Salvotti e i Processi del Ventuno*, is fully confirmed by his depositions now made public. Many writers have hitherto denied the justice of Luzio's charge, maintaining that the official reports on which it was based were untrustworthy and had been falsified by the Austrian police. But the claims in exculpation of Foresti can no longer be maintained; unfortunately for his reputation many facts given in these reports of his depositions tally too well with the fragments of his own *Ricordi* published by Vannucci in a volume of the *Martiri*, to have been invented or inserted by the Austrian police. Foresti may now be said to have taken his place definitely in history among the informers.

The prisoner whose depositions were most creditable was Canonici. During the nine examinations to which he was subjected from August 21 to September 1, 1820, he showed much cleverness in his replies to the fiendishly shrewd inquisitors, shrouding his memory in a veil of uncertainty and giving as little information as was possible in the forced admissions. It is to be noted, moreover, that his depositions correspond perfectly with many statements made in his memoirs published in Bologna in 1848, *Un Tratto della mia Vita*, thereby furnishing further proof of the general trustworthiness of the Austrian police reports.

These proofs of the trustworthiness of the police reports are of the greatest importance to the historian, not only as enabling him to speak with certainty as to the character of the prisoners concerned, but because the depositions as a whole contain a treasure-house of detail upon the character, and aims, and working of the secret societies of this period in the Pontifical States. Much critical care must of course be exercised in the use of documents of this character, but with these volumes in hand it is not too much to say that a general history of Risorgimento secret societies becomes now for the first time possible.

To many students of Italian history it will be a disappointment that with this publication a few martyrs' crowns must come off. But an army of patriots and genuine martyrs remains, and the figures of the truly noble leaders stand out only the more clearly in the direct light thrown upon their weaker associates, many of whom are seen to have been but sorry novices in the field of patriotism, apt in dabbling with decorations of masonic and other secret lodges, but lacking the fibre to endure the test of Austrian police torture.

With regard to the editing of the volumes, it is to be noted that Senator Pierantoni carefully avoids all mention of the originals from which his documents are published, avoids all reference to the manuscript volume of "Estratti degli Atti" described above, and avoids stating that his documents are to be found in the National Library Vittorio Emanuele in Rome. His text is full of errors and it would appear that he was conscious of the wretched character of his editing and was unwilling that scholars should collate his volumes with the originals.

H. NELSON GAY.